What is claimed is:

1. A light control system for a film viewer comprising:

an emitter;

a detector disposed adjacent to the emitter and configured to detect emissions from the emitter; and

a microprocessor configured to control a light in response to a change in the detected emissions resulting from one of an insertion of a film between the emitter and the detector and a removal of a film from between the emitter and the detector.

2. The light control system of claim 1 wherein the microprocessor is configured to energize the light in response to a decrease in the detected emissions resulting from the insertion of a film between the emitter and the detector.

3. The light control system of claim 1 wherein the microprocessor is configured to deenergize the light in response to an increase in the detected emissions resulting from the removal of a film between the emitter and the detector.

4. The light control system of claim 1 further comprising a manual dimming control.

5. The light control system of claim 1 wherein the emitter comprises an infrared emitter and the detector comprises an infrared detector.

6. The light control system of claim 3 wherein the infrared emitter is an infrared LED.

7. The light control system of claim 1 wherein the microprocessor is configured to determine a type of film interposed between the emitter and detector in response to the change in the detected emissions.

8. The light control system of claim 5 wherein the type of film comprises at least one of a transparent film and an opaque film.

9. A film viewer comprising:

a housing;

a light;

an emitter;

a detector adjacent the emitter and configured to detect emissions from the emitter; and

a microprocessor configured to detect a change in emissions detected by the detector when a film is interposed between the emitter and the detector, and further configured to energize the light in response to the detected change in emissions.

10. The film viewer of claim 9 further comprising a manual dimming control.

11. The film viewer of claim 9 wherein the emitter is an infrared emitter.

12. The film viewer of claim 9 wherein the detector is in optical communication with the emitter.

13. The film viewer of claim 9 further comprising a film holding mechanism including a series of rollers interposed between a housing portion and a viewing screen, wherein the housing portion is contoured to direct the rollers toward the screen as the rollers move in response to gravity within the mechanism.

14. The film viewer of claim 13 further comprising a length of resilient tubing within the contoured housing portion, wherein the tubing directs the rollers toward the screen.

15. A method of controlling illumination in a film viewer, the method comprising:

emitting a detectable emission with an emitter;

detecting a level of emissions received by a detector;

determining a change in the detected level of emissions; and

automatically controlling a light source in the film viewer in response to the determined change in the detected level of emissions exceeding a preselected value.

16. The method of claim 15 wherein the step of determining a change in the detected level of emissions includes:

determining a running sum average of a predetermined number of detected levels of emissions; and

determining a difference between the determined running sum average and a previously determined running sum average.

a detector adjacent the emitter and configured to detect emissions from the emitter; and

a microprocessor configured to detect a change in emissions detected by the detector when a film is interposed between the emitter and the detector, and further configured to energize the light in response to the detected change in emissions.

10. The film viewer of claim 9 further comprising a manual dimming control.

11. The film viewer of claim 9 wherein the emitter is an infrared emitter.

12. The film viewer of claim 9 wherein the detector is in optical communication with the emitter.

13. The film viewer of claim 9 further comprising a film holding mechanism including a series of rollers interposed between a housing portion and a viewing screen, wherein the housing portion is contoured to direct the rollers toward the screen as the rollers move in response to gravity within the mechanism.

14. The film viewer of claim 13 further comprising a length of resilient tubing within the contoured housing portion, wherein the tubing directs the rollers toward the screen.

15. A method of controlling illumination in a film viewer, the method comprising:

emitting a detectable emission with an emitter;

detecting a level of emissions received by a detector;

determining a change in the detected level of emissions; and

automatically controlling a light source in the film viewer in response to the determined change in the detected level of emissions exceeding a preselected value.

16. The method of claim 15 wherein the step of determining a change in the detected level of emissions includes:

determining a running sum average of a predetermined number of detected levels of emissions; and

determining a difference between the determined running sum average and a previously determined running sum average.

17. The method of claim 16 further comprising storing the previously determined running sum average in response to the determined difference between the determined running sum average and a previously determined running sum average exceeding the preselected value.

18. The method of claim 17 wherein the step of automatically controlling a light source includes energizing a light source in response to a subsequently determined running sum average being less than the stored running sum average minus the preselected value.

19. The method of claim 17 wherein the step of automatically controlling a light source includes deenergizing a light source in response to a subsequently determined running sum average being greater than the stored running sum average plus the preselected value.

20. The method of claim 15 wherein the step of detecting a level of emissions received by a detector occurs every 5 milliseconds.